



April 18, 2017

(b) (6)

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**Reference: Upper Columbia River Site 2016 Residential Soil Study Results**

Dear (b) (6),

Thank you for participating in the 2016 Upper Columbia River Site Residential Soil Study. Last September Teck American Incorporated, with oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, sampled soil from three “decision unit[s]” on your property and analyzed the soil for metals, including lead and arsenic. Each “decision unit” represents an area of your property where people are most likely to contact soil. Decision units were identified based on information our teams gathered about how you use your property (see enclosed map).

We collected one kind of soil sample at your property:

- “Incremental composite samples” were obtained by collecting soil at 30 places within each decision unit, and then combining the soil into one sample. The result for each metal is reported as a single value for each decision unit.

We are most interested in the levels of lead and arsenic, especially lead. The lead and arsenic results are shown on the enclosed map. The results for all metals tested are included in the table. For comparison, soil screening levels are also shown in the enclosed table.

The 2016 Residential Soil Study is providing the EPA with information needed to complete a human health risk assessment. In addition to the metal results, we will also be estimating lead and arsenic bioavailability, meaning how much may be absorbed by people who ingest soil. In 2014, the results sent to landowners (for both the residential and upland soil studies) were already adjusted for bioavailability. We will send you your bioavailability results when they are available.

The State of Washington has adopted screening level for lead of 250 ppm. The EPA and State of Washington screening level for arsenic is 20 ppm. Results below these screening levels are safe for everyone living on the property, including children and pregnant women. Above a screening level does not automatically indicate concern, but it does indicate it will be evaluated further in the human health risk assessment. The EPA recommends that all families in the study area with

soil lead concentrations greater than 250 parts per million (ppm) or soil arsenic concentrations greater than 20 ppm follow the enclosed Soil Safety Guidelines. These guidelines from the North East Tri County Health District will help to reduce your exposure to lead and arsenic in area soils and soils near your home.

In 2015, soil removals were performed at properties over 600 ppm lead. The EPA has determined that actions to address lead should be prioritized at properties over this level. Properties below this level will be further evaluated in the risk assessment to determine if actions need to be taken.

Thank you again for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the phone number or email address below, or contact Laura Buelow, EPA Project Manager at 509-376-5466 or [Buelow.Laura@epa.gov](mailto:Buelow.Laura@epa.gov).

Sincerely,  
**Teck American Incorporated**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris R. McCaig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris R. McCaig  
Manager, Environment & Public Affairs  
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Enclosure 1. Decision Unit Map (1)  
Enclosure 2. Measured Concentrations of Metals in Soil Samples Collected from your Property  
Enclosure 3. Public Health Soil Safety Guidelines